

## **MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

Lansing, Michigan

May 24, 2006

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Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC), created by said act, met in the Aeronautics Auditorium, 2700 E. Airport Service Drive, on Wednesday, May 24, 2006, commencing at the hour of approximately 10:00 a.m.

### **Members Present**

Terry Everman, Chairman  
James Collins, Vice Chairman  
Sidney Adams, Jr., Commissioner  
Joyce Woods, Commissioner  
Daniel Atkinson, Commissioner  
Leon Hank, Commissioner  
Mindy Koch, Commissioner  
Richard Elliott, Commissioner  
Rob Abent, Commission Director

### **Staff**

Barbara Burris, Executive Assistant  
Rick Hammond, Airports Division  
David Baker, Airports Division  
Gerry Edwards, Aviation Services Division  
Randy Collier, Airports Division  
Forest Kraus, Airports Division

### **Members Absent**

Kirk Steudle, Commissioner  
Eric V. Smith, Commissioner

### **Also Present**

James Shell, Assistant Attorney General  
Lee Scherwitz, SW MI Regional  
John Strehl, Antrim County  
Jim Rice, Flint Bishop International  
Mike Trout, Flint Bishop International  
Karl Randall, Oakland County International  
Liz Myer, New Hudson  
Dan Otto, Capital City  
Jon Bayless, Grand Ledge Abrams  
Bill Blake, AOPA  
Sean Brosnan, Willow Run

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A list of all others present is attached to the official minutes.

**I. OPENING REMARKS**

The May 24, 2006, Aeronautics Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Everman at 10:12 a.m. He welcomed the guests in attendance. He noted the absence of Commissioner Eric Smith and that of Legal Council Pat Isom. (For the record, Assistant Attorney General Jim Shell appears for Mr. Isom.)

**II. COMMISSION BUSINESS****A. Minutes of March 30, 2006**

As the first order of business, the Chairman entertained a motion to approve the minutes of both the Joint Meeting (held in conjunction with the State Transportation Commission) and the regular meeting of the Aeronautics Commission, both held March 30, 2006.

It was moved by Commissioner Adams, with support from Commissioner Collins, to approve the minutes of both meetings held March 30, 2006. The Chairman declared the March 30, 2006 minutes approved as transcribed. MOTION CARRIED.

The Chairman called on Funding Manager David Baker to present the 32 projects pending Commission approval.

**B. Federal/State/Local Projects**

Airport Name & Associated City/County	Project Description	Federal	State	Local	Total
Lenawee County Adrian	Perimeter/security fencing	0	237,500	12,500	250,000

The Chairman recognized Commissioner Koch, who questioned whether or not the state had standards regarding the height of fencing for airport facilities.

Mr. Baker indicated that FAA requirements call for a 10-foot fence when used for animal control.

Padgham Field Allegan	Supplemental transfer for environmental assessment	56,000	12,250	1,750	70,000
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Alpena County Regional Alpena	Replacement of airfield signs	190,000	5,000	5,000	200,000
Baraga Baraga	Environmental Assessment, Phase II	0	55,100	2,900	58,000
W.K. Kellogg Battle Creek	Design for new parallel runway and taxiway and relocation of airport drive; SRE concept budget report & design	705,250	154,274	22,039	881,563
W.K. Kellogg Battle Creek	Perimeter and security fencing	168,000	36,750	50,250	255,000
James Clements & S.P.B. Bay City	Runway lighting	0	332,500	17,500	350,000
Antrim County Bellaire	Supplemental transfer for rehabilitation of taxiways A, B, & C and aprons	102,400	22,400	3,200	128,000

Mr. Baker noted that an increase in the cost of petroleum-based products had resulted in higher-than-anticipated bids on projects where asphalt is needed.

Tuscola Area Caro	Taxiway rehabilitation and extension	470,102	102,835	14,690	587,627
Cheboygan County Cheboygan	Land acquisition	44,000	9,625	1,375	55,000
Branch County Memorial Coldwater	Construction of rehabilitation & extension of taxiway	299,014	618,719	38,467	956,200
Grosse Ile Municipal Detroit/Grosse Ile	Purchase of avigation easement on Round Island	100,000	21,875	3,125	125,000
Drummond Island Drummond Island	Design of rehabilitation of runway 8/26, connector taxiway & apron	0	37,050	1,950	39,000
Iosco County East Tawas	Snow removal equipment	0	142,500	7,500	150,000

Gladwin Zettel Memorial Gladwin	Hangar construction and site work	408,000	89,250	12,750	510,000
Greenville Municipal Greenville	Hangar site construction	136,000	29,750	4,250	170,000
Houghton County Memorial Hancock	Supplemental transfer for SRE motor grader, update ALP & MP, benefit cost analysis for terminal building expansion/relocation, wildlife habitat removal, and taxiway B rehabilitation	230,824	186,669	49,268	466,761
Harbor Springs Municipal Harbor Springs	Design of new terminal building	0	85,500	4,500	90,000
Oceana County Hart/Shelby	Land acquisition consultant, parcels 1-8, Exhibit A	0	66,500	3,500	70,000
Hillsdale Municipal Hillsdale	Tree obstruction survey	48,000	10,500	1,500	60,000
Ford Iron Mountain	Wildlife study & supplemental for terminal building expansion	0	87,400	4,600	92,000
Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Kalamazoo	Relocation of taxiway B	0	194,400	21,600	216,000
Capital City Lansing	Supplemental transfer for 3805				
Mason County Ludington	Supplemental transfer for construction of bypass taxiway for runway 18; rehabilitate taxiway D, apron and taxistreets; rehabilitate runway 7/25 and 18/36	190,400	41,650	5,950	238,000

Manistee County- Blacker Manistee	ARFF vehicle and land acquisition	1,750,000	382,812	54,688	2,187,500
Oscoda County Mio	Environmental assessment for new paved runway				

With respect to the project at Oscoda, Commissioner Koch inquired whether the Environmental Assessment would impact on DNR operations located at one end of the runway.

Mr. Baker responded that it would not.

Canton-Plymouth- Mettetal Plymouth	RSA improvements, fencing & grooving	277,096	60,615	8,659	346,370
Oakland County International Pontiac	Noise mitigation- residential sound insulation program (2006)	3,000,000	656,250	93,750	3,750,000
St. Clair County International Port Huron	Taxiway C rehabilitation	275,200	60,200	8,600	344,000
Romeo State Romeo	Supplemental transfer for construction of entrance road & terminal site prep	150,000	32,812	4,688	187,500
Sandusky City Sandusky	Supplemental transfer for hangar relocation	64,000	14,000	2,000	80,000
Statewide	MDOT/MDEQ MOU for environmental permits	0	40,000	0	40,000
White Cloud White Cloud	Parcel & closing costs (Parcels E6-E14) for approach protection	155,180	33,945	4,850	193,975
Totals		\$8,664,286	\$3,786,686	\$462,549	\$12,913,521

At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Baker entertained questions from the Commissioners.

Chairman Everman inquired whether approach protection zones are routinely secured prior to undertaking runway extensions at the various airports. Mr. Baker's responded that this is done "whenever possible." On rare occasions, due to incomplete data, the bureau may be required to go back and review/acquire air space protection zones.

Director Abent provided additional information, indicating that the bureau is in the process of implementing a more rigorous air space review with respect to runway extensions.

The Chairman entertained a motion to approve the 32 projects presented by Mr. Baker.

It was moved by Commissioner Adams, with support from Commissioner Hank, to approve the funding for the 32 projects presented. MOTION CARRIED.

The Chairman deferred to Mr. Baker for follow-up on the supplemental transfers.

Mr. Baker identified one supplemental transfer, as contained in the Reports Section of the Commissioners' notebooks:

Ford Airport, Iron Mountain: An eleven (11) percent increase in federal/state/local funding resulting from higher than anticipated bids for taxiway lighting, thereby increasing the total project cost to \$915,492, for an increase of \$93,325 over the original transfer.

No official action is required on the supplemental transfers.

### III. DISCUSSION

The Chairman called on Mr. Dennis Norton, Founder and President of the Michigan Aerospace Foundation for an update on fund raising and reconstruction activities at the Yankee Air Museum (YAM).

Preliminary to a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Norton introduced the principals involved in the museum restoration/fund raising activities as well as the flight crew of the B-17 and P-51 aircraft, which were flown to Lansing from the Willow Run facility: Dick Stewart, President of the Yankee Air Museum; Gayle Roberts, Curator; Frank Sinagra, Co-Chair, Development Committee; Speed Gant, foundation board member; Bob Hines, Public Relations Director for the YAM; Norm Ellickson, Paul Scholl, and Randy Hotton (crew of the B-17); Jack Roush, Pilot of the P-51 Mustang; David Norton, foundation donor; and Sean Brosnan, Airport Manager, Willow Run Airport.

Mr. Norton reported that since the disastrous fire of 2004, the museum "has not skipped a beat." All events planned previous to the fire have gone forward without a hitch. He encouraged all in attendance to visit the museum this summer. An event billed as *Thunder over Michigan*, is planned for August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, and a Memorial Day program is planned for Monday, May 29.

Mr. Norton called Mr. Hines to the podium to cover events planned in the near future. Mr. Hines urged guests to visit the museum web site, [www.yankeeairmuseum.org](http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org) for additional program information. Events are planned throughout the year to raise funds and keep reconstruction

moving forward. He noted that great strides are being made. Construction on the first project will begin in August 2006.

At this juncture, Mr. Norton shared a 3-D virtual tour of the projects planned at the museum over the course of the next 15-20 years, all aimed at creating a major tourist attraction. He invited questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Woods remarked that upon visiting the air museum in Kalamazoo she was impressed by how it attracts not only aviation enthusiasts but the general public and introduces them to aviation. She congratulated museum representatives on their grand plans and wished them every success.

Mr. Norton invited those in attendance to inspect the B-17 and the P-51 parked out on the ramp.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Norton for the update. He pledged the Commission's support where possible. He opened the floor for comment from the public.

#### IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Liz Myer, Assistant Airport Manager, Oakland Southwest Airport, addressed the Commissioners. She advised of having contacted staff of the bureau regarding the issue of trespassing and the penalty for same. Currently, trespassing at airports is considered a civil infraction. She indicated that legislation would need to be enacted to reestablish airport trespassing as a misdemeanor crime. She advised of having contacted members of the House of Representatives.

House Bill 6075, sponsored by Rep. David Law, would reestablish a misdemeanor charge for airport trespassing, punishable by imprisonment for not more than one year or a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both. The bill is currently in the House Transportation Committee and is expected to be approved. She asked for the Commission's support of this bill. She cited a recent incident, adding credibility for the measure: On Monday, May 22, at the Oakland Troy Airport, individuals were seen conducting commercial aircraft maintenance on airport property without approval or an operating agreement with management. When police were summoned, a determination was made that the matter was civil in nature. Ms. Myer emphasized the need for enforcement authority. Passage of H.B. 6075 will allow airports to refer such matters to law enforcement agencies for enforcement action, she stated.

Action is also pending on legislation regarding violations of airport rules and regulations. Although complex in nature, a blanket rule for Michigan airports (with regard to violations of individual airport rules and regulations) would release the Aeronautics Commission from having to rule on individual airport violations. Draft legislation is pending. She asked for the Commission's assistance in reviewing and providing input on this legislation.

The Chairman advised of the Commission's familiarity with the legislation. He thanked Ms. Myer for her comments.

Mr. Darwin Baranski, Manager of Parks, Buildings and Grounds, city of Bay City, on behalf of the city of Bay City and its aviation community, thanked the Commissioners for their continued support for improvements at the James Clements Airport. Grants awarded thus far have provided for the replacement of an aging runway lighting system and enhancements critical to the success of the airport. Currently, the airport has projects which include the installation of a fuel farm, tie-downs, and rehabilitation of the apron area. T-hangars are also planned. "These improvements will significantly enhance aviation services, increase resident population on the airfield, attract new services, and contribute significant revenues to operations," he stated.

Mr. Baranski congratulated staff of the bureau; particularly Rick Hammond, David Baker, Randy Collier, Kelly Jost, and Jenny Yung, on their dedication to customer service. He extended an open invitation to all to visit the James Clements Airport.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Baranski for his kind remarks and echoed his praise for staffs of the bureau. He deferred to Director Abent for a "Director's Report."

## V. REPORTS

Preliminary to his report, the Director welcomed two guests in attendance; Mr. Bill Blake, Regional Representative, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and Mr. William Gehman, former MAC Commission Director.

With the aid of slides, Director Abent reported on bureau activities and other topics of interest, paraphrased as follows:

House Bill 5154, the amendment to the Airport Safety and Protection (ASAP) legislation, which will allow the MAC to accelerate expenditure of \$36 million for airport improvement projects, has been approved by the Legislature and was signed by the Governor on May 10.

With respect to the aircraft consolidation previously approved by the MAC, four of the five aircraft listed for sale have been sold. The remaining aircraft, a C-310 owned by the DNR, is currently listed with a broker. MDOT has positioned a Baron at K.I. Sawyer International Airport in Marquette to provide service to state officials and employees based in the Upper Peninsula. The program has been enthusiastically received. Pilots from the Department of State Police are undergoing training to be able to utilize MDOT's Beechcraft Barons in emergency situations. In addition, implementation meetings are underway for development of a joint flight operations manual between the principal departments.

Through April of FY 2006, flight hours for Air Transport increased by 13 percent over FY 05, and 20 percent over FY 04—good news, as this demonstrates that utilization has substantially



increased at a time when restrictions were imposed on flying any public university officials. In FY 2004, flights of university officials comprised almost 20 percent of the total flight hours. The goal of the consolidation is to produce a revenue neutral effect, and, he pointed out, we are rapidly approaching that point.

The City of Charlotte, sponsor of the Fitch H. Beach Airport, is undertaking a review of the airport's ability to provide for the needs of the aviation community and the community in general. The bureau, in cooperation with the sponsor and its primary contractor, Mead and Hunt, P.C., will be engaging in a long-term process of bringing to the Commission, at each meeting, updates on this process—sharing with the Commissioners how decisions get made and what the process involves—aimed at making the process as transparent as possible.

On Saturday, May 20th, the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Teacher's Workshop, titled *The Sky's the Limit*, was held at the bureau. The Director congratulated Commissioner Adams on his perfect attendance since his appointment to the MAC. Slides of the workshop were shared with the audience. Tom Krashen, assisted by volunteers of the bureau, heads up this exciting event.

On May 16, the Michigan Department of Transportation inducted six transportation notables into the *Transportation Hall of Honor*, which included former MAC Commissioner Mary Creason. Ms. Creason began her career at MDOT in 1977, as editor of *Michigan Aviation*. Ms. Creason was Michigan's first female state pilot and was responsible for education and safety. In 1988, she was promoted to the position of Assistant Deputy Director. She retired from state government in 1989, and was subsequently appointed to the Aeronautics Commissioner by Governor Engler. She served until 1992. The Director extended his congratulations to Ms. Creason.

Once a year, MDOT celebrates *Employee Appreciation Day*. This year, the bureau sponsored a cook-out for bureau employees. The Director posted slides of this event.

Each year, the Department of Transportation bestows on a select few a prestigious award known as "the Director's Award" in recognition of its most outstanding employees. This year, Jay Henning of the Airports Division was nominated for this award.

Aviation Specialist Randy Coller was recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration as the 2006 Great Lakes Region "Aviation Safety Counselor of the Year." Mr. Coller serves the bureau as the chief airport inspector and is directly responsible for publication of the Aeronautical Chart and the *Airport Directory*. He was named Michigan's "Airport Manager of the Year" in 1978. The Director congratulated Mr. Coller on this prestigious award.

Gary Ross of the Aviation Services Bureau received the "Aviation Technician of the Year" award from the Detroit Flight Safety District Office for his work on aviation electronics. Mr. Ross subsequently received the same award from the FAA Great Lakes States Region Office. The Director congratulated Mr. Ross as well.

The Director highlighted recent retirements of Airport Inspector Bob Riffel and departmental specialist John Dallal, both long-term employees of the bureau. He noted the transition to the private sector of Transportation Engineer Kelly Yost. He extended congratulations to one and all.

The Director announced upcoming events:

Two separate roundtable discussions have been scheduled to take place on August 11 with our partners in the air carrier and general aviation industry. Notices of these events will be sent out in the near future.

The July 27 MAC meeting will be held in Flint, in conjunction with the Flint Bishop International Airport. The September 13 MAC meeting will be held in Marquette, in conjunction with the Michigan Association of Airport Executives' fall conference.

The Chairman thanked the Director for his report and congratulated all the individuals mentioned on their accomplishments. He reminded those present of the upcoming meeting in Flint on July 26. He declared the meeting adjourned. The meeting concluded at approximately 11:15 a.m.

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Director

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Chairman

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_